

[23 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

for its control has been prepared and the same is under implementation.

- (iv) The ambient air quality of Delhi is monitored through a network of monitoring stations under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme.
- (v) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.
- (vi) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (vii) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesels has also been reduced.
- (viii) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Vehicles Rules 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.

Agreement with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

3997. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has signed an agreement with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for the development of an India-specific vaccine;
- (b) if so, what are the main features of this agreement;
- (c) to what extent this vaccine could be developed in India; and
- (d) by when this vaccine will be available to check AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Indian Council of Medical Research has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), New York, USA. Under the terms of Memorandum of

Understanding, each party will contribute their experiences and resources to vaccine development to include cooperation in basic science research building to collaborative research on different approaches towards development of AIDS vaccine on prevalent HIV sub-type C in India.

(c) Efforts are being made by various institutions to develop these vaccines in India.

(d) Consistent efforts are being made to prepare this vaccine for checking AIDS in India. It is envisaged it may take a couple of years more for developing this vaccine.

Setting up of an International Drug Facility

3998. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to demand at international for setting up of an International Drug Facility to make AIDS drugs available at nominal prices to the developing world;

(b) whether World Health Organisation has been consulted; and

(c) if so, their reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) One of the main priorities of WHO is to apply technical expertise to the problem of accelerating access to HIV treatment, particularly Anti-retroviral drugs (ARV). Simpler ARV treatment methods and substantial cost reduction are needed in regions such as Africa and South-East Asia, where the HIV pandemic is most severe yet resources for treatment most limited. WHO plans to create a global network of experts on ARV treatment, to develop WHO's policies and guidelines for ARV in resource-limited settings and to set a priority research agenda, and most importantly to establish a fair and comprehensive policy that will allow developing countries increased access to drugs. In this endeavour, WHO is working closely with World Trade Organisation (WTO), UNAIDS and the countries in both developed and developing world.